

principles of classification. The main body of the book is devoted to a systematic (albeit brief) summary of useful information about the various orders, starting with agglutinating Foraminifera and ending with the globigerinids. Each chapter gives a survey of morphology and taxonomic principles, phylogeny, stratigraphic applications, and examples from biogeographic and related "ecologic" studies (diversity plots, depth distributions, facies association, and so on). Essentially, Haynes provides a review of basic material that is necessary if, for example, one wishes to show students how to work with fusulinids in the late Paleozoic. The literature cited is extensive and is international in scope. Illustrations range from adequate (line drawings) to excellent (scanning electron micrographs), although coverage is necessarily spotty for those groups that exhibit great diversity.

The book, then, is a utilitarian contribution to the "training" aspect of the micropaleontology profession: it is written with oil geology in mind. The depth of treatment of academic questions—principles of classification and of stratigraphy, and evolutionary theory—is strongly influenced by the utilitarian aspect of the book. Thus, paleobiologists will not find their pet subjects of discussion aired here. The enormous progress of the last dozen years in the quantitative treatment of faunal data, for the purpose of environmental reconstruction, is touched on in the last chapter, on globigerinids. In this chapter, also, stable-isotope analysis is briefly discussed.

In essence, the book reflects the now classic and fruitful marriage of paleontology-stratigraphy with sedimentology-paleoecology, which peaked in the '60's. It should prove valuable for introductory courses in micropaleontology. For a taste of where it's at, however, I would suggest supplementing it with more specialized works covering recent advances in oceanic micropaleontology (for example, R. M. Cline and J. D. Hays, "Investigation of Late Quaternary Paleoceanography and Paleoclimatology," *Geological Society of America Memoir* 145 (1976); A. T. S. Ramsay, *Oceanic Micropaleontology*, vol. 1, Academic Press, 1977; B. U. Haq and A. Boersma, *Introduction to Marine Micropaleontology*, Elsevier, 1978; J. H. Lipps *et al.*, *Foraminiferal Ecology and Paleoecology*, Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, 1979).

W. H. BERGER

*Scripps Institution of Oceanography,
La Jolla, California 92093*

Development of Germ Cells

Primordial Germ Cells in the Invertebrates. From Epigenesis to Preformation. PIETER D. NIEUWKOOP and LIEN A. SUTASURYA. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1982. xiv, 258 pp., illus. \$59.95. Developmental and Cell Biology Series, 10.

This is the second of two books in which Nieuwkoop and Sutasurya examine the origin and development of the primordial germ cells in the animal kingdom. Having examined the chordates in the companion volume (*Primordial Germ Cells in the Chordates: Embryogenesis and Phylogenesis*, 1979), the authors have now turned to the analysis of the invertebrates. The levels at which this analysis can be carried out in the two animal groups are not entirely comparable. Because the chordates are in fact a rather homogeneous group, the origin and development of germ cells in the phylum can conceivably be analyzed against the background of both phylogeny and embryonic development. On the other hand, the phyla comprised by the invertebrates are so highly heterogeneous as to make possible the analysis of the origin of germ cells in these groups only in the context of their embryonic development. As a result, the invertebrate phyla are arranged according to their taxonomic classification and no attempt is made to correlate them phylogenetically. In spite of these limitations and the disparity of data available in the various invertebrate phyla, the authors have accomplished their goal of providing a comprehensive review of invertebrate germ cell development. The material for each phylum is presented in a rather concise but exhaustive fashion and includes a variety of data on embryonic development, mode of reproduction, and regenerative capacities whenever present.

The picture that emerges shows that primordial germ cells in invertebrates develop according to highly divergent mechanisms. In most primitive invertebrates, the origin of germ cells is basically epigenetic, for they can develop from various types of somatic cells under the inductive influence of some organ anlagen or environmental factors. This is in sharp contrast with higher invertebrates, where cell-specific germ plasma and early segregation from somatic cells make the development of germ cells strongly preformistic. An "intermediate" mode of germ cell development can also be envisioned in those invertebrate phyla—annelids, echinoderms, and mollusks—in

which segregation of germ cells from previously somatically committed cells occurs rather late in embryonic development. The evidence gathered in the book leads to the unavoidable conclusion that the classic distinction between germline and soma drawn from Weismann's *Keimplasma* theory is no longer tenable. In opposition to the old-fashioned idea of an immortal germ line, Nieuwkoop and Sutasurya propose that germ cell development is a special mode of cell differentiation in which the acquisition of a differentiated state does not ultimately result in loss of totipotentiality.

Looked at from this standpoint, the development of germ cells has a much wider contour than had previously been assumed, so as to include all cells that may potentially develop into germ cells.

On the whole the book appears to be a well-balanced survey of the wide mass of data available on the subject. The reader interested in this literature will appreciate the effort put forth by the authors to present a unifying view of a controversial topic.

FRANCO GIORGI

*Department of Biology, University of
Oregon, Eugene 97403*

Olmec Archeology

The Olmec and Their Neighbors. Essays in Memory of Matthew W. Stirling. Michael D. Coe and David Grove, organizers. ELIZABETH P. BENSON, Ed. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections, Washington, D.C., 1981. xii, 346 pp., illus. \$30.

By following up the explorations of his predecessors in the jungles of southern Mexico, uncovering numerous additional monumental sculptures, finding some spectacular jade offerings, and popularizing his adventures in the pages of the *National Geographic*, the late Matthew W. Stirling was single-handedly responsible for the greatest surge of enthusiastic interest that Olmec archeology has yet received. The organizers of this volume have gathered a score of essays honoring his memory, presenting them under a title for whose inspiration they turned to the famous festschrift for the Mayanist A. M. Tozzer. The essays are mainly of interest to the academic specialist, but several have more general interest and broader significance. My remarks here are directed toward two whose subject matter is particularly familiar.

Olmec sculpture was a focus of Stirling's explorations, and fine Olmec art

rightly continues to fascinate, although, unfortunately, the paucity of solid data in Olmec archeology has given rise to a discipline too often dominated by dubious conjecture. It is particularly fitting, therefore, that one of the most valuable of the essays is an insightful consideration of Olmec monumental sculpture by Beatriz de la Fuente. In view of the importance of Olmec art to Olmec archeology, the amount of misinformation that pervades the academic and popular literature and the extent of obvious error in the most fundamental observations and generalizations slavishly repeated year after year are a continuing source of amazement. De la Fuente compiles and organizes a goodly number of statements that are either false or misleading. Her treatment, however, is circumspect even when she quotes such self-indulgent iconographically based notions as "The weird jaguar-baby symbolism is the hallmark of the style" or references to formal attributes of the style as a "veristic art" with "intensely dynamic" qualities.

De la Fuente makes the fundamental, and for some doubtless surprising, observation that the chief subject of representation in Olmec monumental art is the human figure and that among the defining formal properties of the style are "the marked preference for volume," orderly structures of geometric forms, and a highly refined sense, or canon, of proportion. With respect to the last, she employs the term "harmonic proportion," and she makes a case for the recognition in Olmec sculpture of the canon of the golden section, that is, the classical ratio of roughly three to five. There is no doubt that, as she illustrates, an approximation of this canon can be seen in a number of Olmec sculptures, but I wonder to what extent such rules of proportion were explicitly defined and to what extent they resulted more intuitively from a general inclination toward and a sensitivity to the less exact "harmonic proportion," since certain other quite distinguished sculptures are well described by this term and yet seem to resist a precise application of the golden mean. Although discretion might be advised with respect to the more metaphysical and metaphorical interpretations of content, interesting but of necessity speculative, de la Fuente's essay should be prerequisite reading for anyone seriously interested in Olmec art. It opens the eyes both to the essential qualities of Olmec art itself and to the imprecision of much of what has been written about it.

Richard Diehl sets himself a fascinating but difficult and frustrating task in

seeking to compare the Olmec architecture of La Venta and San Lorenzo. Since so little is known, he must restrict his discussion to the most elemental constituents of architecture—material, placement, function. He effectively outlines many of the substantial problems in defining a specifically Olmec art of building, but I suggest that the difficulties of comparing these two important sites are even greater than he suggests. Diehl notes the problem of correlating the "architectural phases" of La Venta chronology with the "ceramic phases" of San Lorenzo chronology. However, though he notes that the reality of the La Venta phases has been challenged, he accepts them and utilizes their radiocarbon dating, another problem in itself at both sites, as the key to equation with San Lorenzo. From experience in digging at La Venta and from having discussed for many years the difficulties of defining La Venta constructional history with my late colleague Robert Heizer, who contributed substantially to the original definition of the phases, I must confess to having little faith in the reality of the phases. Thus, the attribution of some architectural differences between the sites, for example with respect to the presence of basalt columns, to the "fact" that the features in question were restricted to La Venta phases corresponding to a period of non-occupation at San Lorenzo is not entirely convincing to me. However, Diehl's summary of the many significant La Venta features that are apparently absent at San Lorenzo is important and useful.

Unfortunately, the San Lorenzo excavations are disappointing when it comes to defining architecture associated with the San Lorenzo ceramic phase, the period to which Michael Coe and Diehl assign most of the Olmec-style sculpture. The major artificial fills assigned to the San Lorenzo phase are in ridges fingering out from the "plateau" or main ridge upon which the principal mounds of the ruin today are located (mounds that largely belong to much later periods of the site's history). The purpose of these peninsular ridges is quite unclear, and indeed Diehl concedes that some may question their inclusion under the rubric of architecture. He, along with his San Lorenzo project colleague Francisco Beverido (who holds that the ridges result from natural erosion), is unable to see in the ridge pattern ("try though I have") the effigy suggested by Coe (originally, a "huge quadruped"; now, a "flying bird"). The difficulty in seeing the effigy has been explained by Coe as stemming

from the failure of the Olmec architects to complete their intended design, but the absence in Mesoamerica of any tradition, indeed of any other example, of giant site-effigies is an even more serious objection to this obviously highly subjective interpretation. The matter is of consequence beyond the realms of Mesoamerican culture history, since the supposed effigy has been accepted by some archeologists as a basis for putative Olmec inspiration of North American earthen effigies such as Poverty Point. To some it may also seem extravagant to refer to the San Lorenzo ridges as the most ambitious architectural project of Mesoamerican civilization prior to the building of the Pyramid of the Sun at Teotihuacan, as Coe and Diehl have done, when the nature and function of the ridges remain so unclear. The magnitude of construction represented, as measured in simple volume, can only be extrapolated on the basis of a very few soundings; Diehl notes that for the Group D Ridge this results in a quantity less than the volume of the Great Mound of La Venta, whose age is unknown but which at least can be unequivocally recognized as architecture.

The absence of any substantial mound construction at San Lorenzo assignable to the San Lorenzo phase has been attributed to possible "dismantling" activities of later inhabitants. Though removal of earthen mounds, or "dismantling," is not impossible, the common practice in ancient Mesoamerica was to build over preexisting mounds and construction, thus producing ever more impressive monuments. Diehl makes a significant point, all too frequently forgotten, in warning against the use of a site's final architectural plan, as at San Lorenzo, in making judgments about the relationship of structures and their patterns of placement when excavation raises questions about or disproves the contemporaneity of the compared entities.

The San Lorenzo drain or sewer systems of cut stone conduits and the putatively associated "lagoons" remain the only additional constructional features of interest assigned to the San Lorenzo phase. Diehl states that the portion of the main excavated sewer line that was placed in a meter-deep trench was left exposed during the functioning of the system, with the sewer being buried only after it was no longer in use. Why a drainage system featuring cut stone lids for the conduits would be left exposed in an open ditch is puzzling. Similarly, the many irregularities exhibited in the system are attributed by Coe and Diehl to

haste in construction, lack of efficient managerial organization, failure to advise some of the stonecutters of the need for sewer lids, and other such causes. Perhaps rather than looking to such a remarkable incompetence a better explanation might be found in seeing the elaborate sewer systems as being in use over a long period of time during which various modifications were undertaken with many sewer stones being reused from earlier placements. Such an interpretation would not, however, be compatible with the excavators' conclusion that the drainage system was constructed, used, and passed into disuse all during the San Lorenzo ceramic phase. Diehl notes that a half-millennium gap appears to exist between the dating of the San Lorenzo system and that of La Venta, a situation he finds "difficult to accept." It is disappointing that none of the lagoons, which these sewers were supposedly to serve, was examined in any detail. Diehl refers to a minor excavation into Lagoon 10, yielding some "chunks" of bentonite; the final project report refers to a trench into Lagoon 10, revealing a lining of "bentonite blocks," but curiously the excavation with this interesting architectural feature is not otherwise reported upon or documented.

As a whole this collection of essays ranges over much of the landscape of Olmec archeological interpretation, and it provides a useful and convenient sampling of some of the thinking characterizing the subject.

JOHN A. GRAHAM

Department of Anthropology,
University of California,
Berkeley 94720

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